



TOWN OF MESILLA

2231 Avenida de Mesilla, Mesilla NM 88046

Oct. 2014 Newsletter

In This Issue: *Message from our Mayor *Upcoming Events *Department Updates *Safety tips

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR

Dear Mesilla Residents,

It continues to be a pleasure and an honor serving as your mayor and working with excellent staff, residents, volunteers and a dedicated board.

The smell of green chile roasting, shorter days and cooler mornings reminds me that it is time to gear up for fall and winter activities around the Town of Mesilla. Fall is the beginning of Mariachi Sundays on the Plaza, Dia de los Muertos, Jazz Happenings, Los Leones Car Show, Veterans Day ceremony, reenactments on the plaza and ending with Luminarias on the plaza Christmas Eve. Please bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the events scheduled on the plaza.

The town began 2014 with a \$250,000 renovation project of the kiosk "gazebo". The project was completed just in time for Cinco de Mayo fiesta. We are currently in the process of completing plans for a \$887,000 renovation project of the Public Safety Building. The funding for the Public Safety building is from capital outlay funding designated to the Town of Mesilla from our legislators over the past 2 years (2013 and 2014). We felt this was a priority due to all the code violations of the building. We know the Town of Mesilla has many infrastructure needs and we will continue to seek funding to address these needs. Also, repaving of Calle de Principal (south of Calle Parian) will begin soon.

In March we had our board elections. We congratulate Trustee Linda Flores on her re-election and welcome Trustee Stephanie Johnson-Burick. With a new board member to the Town of Mesilla team comes new energy and ideas. The Board of Trustees has done a wonderful job in their positions and continue to make decisions in the best interest of the Town of Mesilla.

All departments have included a report of their department's progress and ongoing activities. Department heads and coordinators have done a fabulous job of searching and writing grants that have produced funding for the Town of Mesilla. Please thank them for their commitment and dedication to the Town of Mesilla.

The town continues working with Mesilla businesses and Mesilla mercado vendors to open the doors of communication. Irene Parra, Community and Special Projects Coordinator, works diligently with Department of Tourism and other agencies and organizations, to promote the Town of Mesilla.

A special thank you to the volunteers who volunteer at the J. Paul Taylor Visitors Center. The work that the volunteers do at the visitors center is very important and essential, as this is for many out of town guests their first steps into the Town of Mesilla. We welcome all residents to volunteer at the visitors center a couple of hours a week.

I continue to work honestly and tirelessly along with the Board of Trustees, business owners, constituents and staff to bring issues for discussion and to develop plans that address these needs and concerns. I ask for your patience and support as we continue to work together to make our town a great place to live, to work and to raise our families. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your mayor.

Sincerely,

Nora L. Barraza



WWW.MESILLANM.GOV

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT

With the holidays upon us, the Town of Mesilla is busying itself for many fun filled family events. This month the Town of Mesilla is excited to announce the 1st Annual Halloween Carnival. The event will feature a haunted house, carnival games, a costume contest, pumpkin painting and tricks & treats. The event is FREE to the public. Once again, the Calavera Coalition will be hosting the Dia de Los Muertos festival in the plaza October 31st, November 1st and 2nd. The event is also FREE to the public. You can find a schedule of events on the town website at www.mesillanm.gov

Mariachi Sundays have begun and will continue through November 23, 2014. Performances are from 3pm to 5pm on the plaza. The Veterans Day Ceremony will be held on November 11th at 11:00am at the Veteran's Park and The Gadsden Purchase Reenactment (El Tratado de La Mesilla) is scheduled for November 17th at 2pm in the Plaza. Small business Saturday is scheduled for November 29, 2014, encouraging the community to shop local.

La Posta, along with other local businesses will, once again, host Santa in the plaza for Mesilla Elementary students. The lighting of the Christmas Tree will be held on December 12, 2014 at 6pm. Businesses will remain open until 9pm for late shopping in Mesilla. We will finish off a wonderful year with our traditional lighting of the luminarias on Christmas Eve. Christmas carols and hot chocolate will be part of the festivities, as always!!

Best wishes,

Irene E. Parra, Special Events Coordinator
(575)524-3262 ext. 116
irenep@mesillanm.gov

2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 8 th – Cupids Chase 5K 7a.m. – 11a.m. *Plaza	Sept. – Nov. (Sundays) – Mariachi Sundays 4p.m. – 6p.m. *Plaza (Dates tentative)
Feb. 16 th – RACE for CARE 5K 8a.m. – 11a.m. *Plaza	Oct. 4 th & 5 th – Mesilla Jazz Happening Saturday: 12–7pm Sunday: 12–3pm *Plaza
April 12 th – Optimist Club of Las Cruces 5K 8a.m. – Noon *Plaza	Oct. 11 th – Los Leones de Mesilla Car Show 10a.m. – 3p.m. *Town Hall Parking Lot
May 3 rd & 4 th – Cinco de Mayo Fiesta Saturday: Noon – 10pm Sunday: Noon–7p.m. *Plaza	Oct. 31 st – Nov. 2 nd – Dia de Los Muertos Friday: 2pm–7pm Saturday: 12 – 7pm *Plaza (Saturday Procession - 6pm) Sunday: 12 – 5pm
May 21 st – Ride of Silence 6p.m. *Plaza	Nov. 11 th – Veterans Day Ceremony 11a.m. *Parque de Veteranos
June 15 th – Raft the Rio River Race and Festival 10a.m. – 4p.m. *Picacho Bridge to Mesilla Bridge	Nov. 17 th – "El Tratado de La Mesilla" Reenactment 2p.m. *Plaza
July 4 th – Fireworks Display 9p.m. *Avenida de Mercado at Calle de Mercado	Dec. 12 th – Lighting of the Christmas Tree & Music 6-6:30p.m. Shopping late in Mesilla
Sept. 13 th & 14 th – Diez y Seis de Septiembre Fiesta Saturday: 11a.m. Parade *Avenida de Mesilla Fiesta – Noon – 10p.m. Sunday: Noon – 7p.m. *Plaza	Dec. 24 th – Luminarias and Music 5:30p.m. – 7:30p.m. *Plaza



For more information contact
Town of Mesilla
(575)524-3262 ext. 116
Or Irene E. Parra at
irenep@mesillanm.gov



Arts, Crafts & Seasonal Produce
Market
Fridays: 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sundays: Noon – 4 p.m.

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

Friday October 31, 2014 6pm-9pm

Historically Haunted

Mesilla Community Center

2251 Calle de Santiago

FREE ADMISSION!!

Haunted House *Carnival Games

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT



Dear Resident,

Even though the “Monsoon” season is slowly winding to a close, there is still the serious concern that the increase number of mosquitoes that have occurred this year will cause health problems throughout the area. There is still serious concern of the possibility of spreading the West Nile Virus (and possibly other illnesses) throughout Mesilla. Because of this, we ask that you continue to implement the following precautions on your properties:

Cutting and maintaining the grass and weeds in and around your property, including unnecessary or uncontrolled vegetation on agricultural land;

Eliminate any standing water, or items that can collect and hold water; and

Eliminate any items such as tires, household and yard items, junk and debris that can harbor mosquitoes or other pests such as rodents, snakes, or harmful insects that might spread infections.

Codes Enforcement will continue to monitor all properties in Mesilla, especially those with uncontrolled vegetation and items that can harbor rodents, snakes, and insects; and cite those that do not comply.

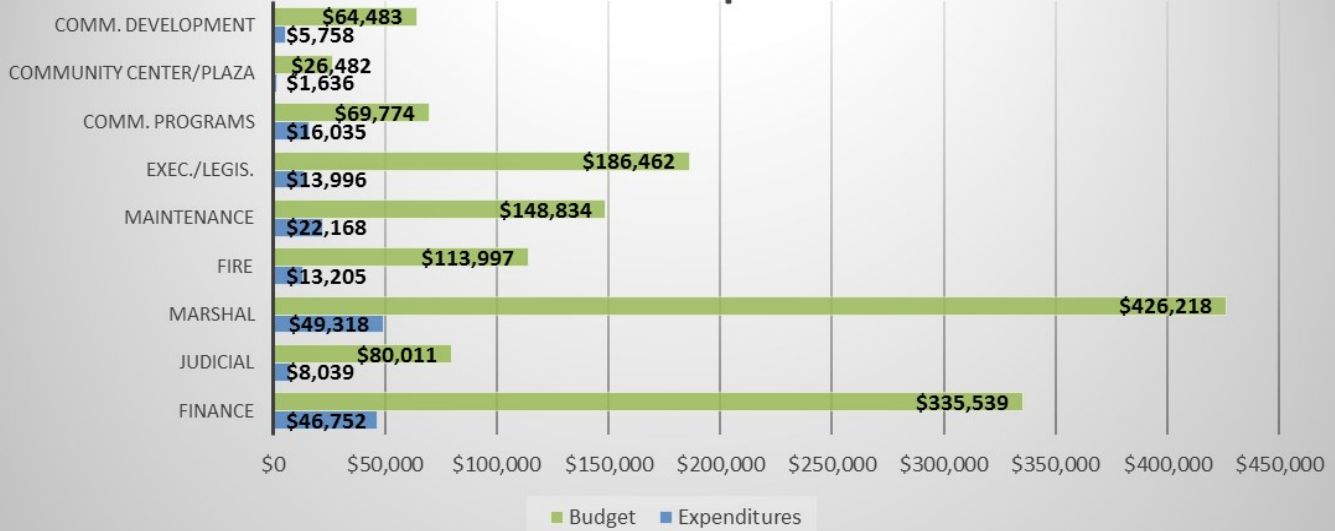
Thank you for helping us in this effort to control the potential spread of the West Nile Virus and other harmful diseases that tend to occur during periods of prolonged rainfall.

Thank you,

Larry Shannon
Community Development Coordinator
Town of Mesilla
Office: (575) 524-3262 ext. 104

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

General Fund Expenditures



Goals for the remainder of the fiscal year:

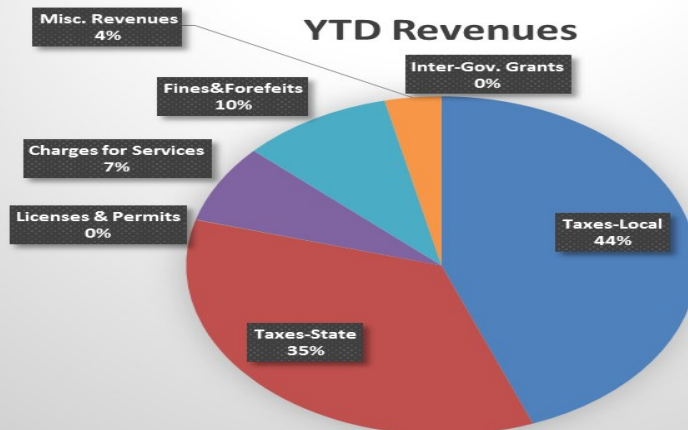
Remain on-track with the approved budget, all departments have been doing a great job staying within their approved budget, and I expect that trend to continue the remainder of the fiscal year

As always the Finance Department is looking for ways to save money and be as conservative as possible on spending tax payer monies. You can pay your utility bills online! To access this feature go to www.municipalonlinepayments.com/mesillanm. It will ask you to register and create a username and password. Keep this handy because this will allow you to pay monthly, without having to come to the Town Hall. We're trying to make things more efficient for your hectic schedule, especially during this holiday season.

Town Hall will be closed in observance of these Holidays:

Columbus Day	Monday, October 13, 2014
Veterans Day	Monday, November 11, 2014
Thanksgiving Break	Thursday, November 27, 2014 &
	Friday, November 28, 2014
Christmas Eve	Tuesday, December 24, 2014
Christmas Day	Wednesday December 25, 2014
New Year's Eve	Tuesday, December 31, 2014
New Year's Day	Wednesday, January 1, 2015

YTD Revenues



TOWN OF MESILLA

Public Works Department

P.O. Box 10, Mesilla, New Mexico 88046

Office: (575) 524-3262 ext. 103

Fax: (575) 541-6327

Town of Mesilla Vector Control by Matt Lee

The last two weeks in Mesilla has provided ample rainfall patterns which have produced numerous new mosquito breeding sources located throughout the town. Continued larvaciding has taken place weekly throughout the month to prevent hatches of adult mosquitoes from the publicly accessible breeding sites. Private property breeding sites are still the major concern with ample sites located in the agriculture areas within the town and primarily container breeding sites being found in the residential subdivisions of Mesilla. Continued vigilance from residents in terms of dumping water filled containers and keeping weeds mowed down to a short height is necessary.

The primary concern in the adult mosquito population is mainly flood water species hatching off agriculture/ large property site on the western half of the town. These species have a large flight radius of up to 10 miles with conducive wind patterns. Adulticide fogging missions are still occurring weekly in areas which have triggered thresholds found during landing count rates conducted throughout the town. Missions are canceled during nights/mornings when weather is a concern (i.e. rain or wind above 10 mph). Currently we have been fogging on Thursday nights and Saturday mornings (4:30 to dawn) depending on the species which we are targeting to achieve the greatest effectiveness. The Plaza area of town is sprayed only on Saturday mornings due to high pedestrian traffic on any given night of the week. Areas from the central core of Mesilla and east to the Town limit has had tolerable populations during the past two weeks, but continue to receive adulticide missions weekly to suppress the overall population.

As of this week there are no reported West Nile cases within the immediate area, with multiple cases found over the past month in El Paso County.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO OUR RESIDENTS/BUSINESS OWNERS:

The past couple of years the Public Works department has been repairing broken water meters due to residents tampering with Mesilla water meters. The Town of Mesilla will be charging the resident/business owner for tampered broken water valves including labor. For any reason a resident/business owner needing to shut off their water, please contact the **Town Hall at 524-3262** or the **Emergency on-call phone number 650-8830**. It is our recommendation that residents/business owners place a shut off valve immediately after the Mesilla town meter to shut off their water due to a water leak. The following Mesilla Town Code states;

Mesilla Town Code

Chapter 13.10

Utilities, General Provisions

13.10.140 Interference with municipal utility services equipment

It shall be unlawful for any person not having authority to do so, to open any water hydrant or tamper with any utility service furnished by the municipality to customers, or to in any other way remove, replace, repair, tamper, damage, or trespass upon any equipment or premises belonging to the municipality, or any equipment or premises belonging to the municipality, or any premises to which the municipality has as easement or right-of-way for any utility service. [Prior code sec. 10-1-14]

13.10.230 Violations of this chapter – Penalty

Violations of the provisions of this chapter shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding \$300.00 or by imprisonment not exceeding 90 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment. [Prior code sec. 10-1-23]

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Public Works Daily Routine

Public Works crew continuous job duties include routine cleaning and maintenance of the Town Hall, Community Center, Public Safety Building, Plaza, picking-up trash at the parks. As always the crew is reading meters monthly and monitoring the wells when they are on-call.
Fulfilling work orders from residents, tenants, staff, fire and police department
Repairing water leaks and replacing broken meter boxes
Repairing broken bricks around plaza or sidewalks
Repairing potholes
Replacing stop signs due to graffiti and signs being run down
Preparing and setting up plus taking down for all Town events plus special rentals
Watering, cutting and trimming grass at all the parks
Attending Safety, Water & Wastewater Training Classes

Goals for Public Works Department;

Replace Water lines and meters, sewer lines installed, road repairs, drainage improvements. We have submitted these goals on our ICIP 2016-2020 (Figure 1).

New park equipment.

Equipment needed; Sewer line camera locator and cleaning machine, Small truck for asphalt patching, water tanker, roller, striping machine for streets & parking lots, three fire retardant cabinets, four chlorine tank repair kits

Public Works Staff;

Debbie Lujan, Director
Sean Lucero, Foreman
Joe Martinez
Danny Dominguez
Jose Gonzales
Adrian Robles
Gary Garrison

Emergency on-call phone number **575-650-8830**

Winter months are around the corner please use the following safety tips;



Use your SENSES

Sight

Sound

Smell

Gas Leak: How to Recognize a Suspected Leak

Using your sense of sight, sound and smell will help you recognize a suspected leak. Here's what you should look for:

Sight - Natural gas is colorless, but vapor and "ground frosting" may be visible at high pressures. A gas leak may also be indicated by bubbles in wet or flooded areas, distinct patches of dead vegetation, dust blowing from a hole in the ground or flames if the leak is ignited.

Sound - A hissing or roaring noise along the right-of-way of a pipeline could also indicate a natural gas leak.

Smell - Natural gas is odorless. Before it is delivered to your home, mercaptan is added which gives the gas a sulphur or "rotten egg" smell to help detect leaks. If the gas is from an underground leak, the odorant may be filtered out by the ground.

Ensure Your Safety **Call NM 811 BEFORE YOU DIG**

Before you start any excavation activity on your property, you are required by state law to call **811 or 1-800-321-2537** at least 2 business days before digging. New Mexico Gas Company will mark the location of their lines at no cost to you. Excavation activities can be as simple as planting a tree, installing landscaping, building a fence or installing a swimming pool.

What you should **NOT** do if a leak occurs:

DO NOT touch, breathe or make contact with the leak.

DO NOT light a match, turn light switches on or off, use a cell or home phone, or do anything to create a spark.

DO NOT attempt to extinguish any fire.

DO NOT attempt to operate any valves.

What you should **DO** if a leak occurs:

DO leave the home, building and area of the suspected leak, and get to a safe area.

DO call 911 and New Mexico Gas Company from a safe distance.

DO warn others to stay out of the area.

New Mexico Gas Company 24-Hour Emergency Number

1-888- NM-GAS-CO (1-888-664-2726)

Zia Natural Gas Company

575-526-4427 or 800-453-5546

FIRE DEPARTMENT



**MESILLA FIRE
DEPARTMENT**
"First In, Last Out"



HOTSPOTS

News from the Mesilla Fire Department

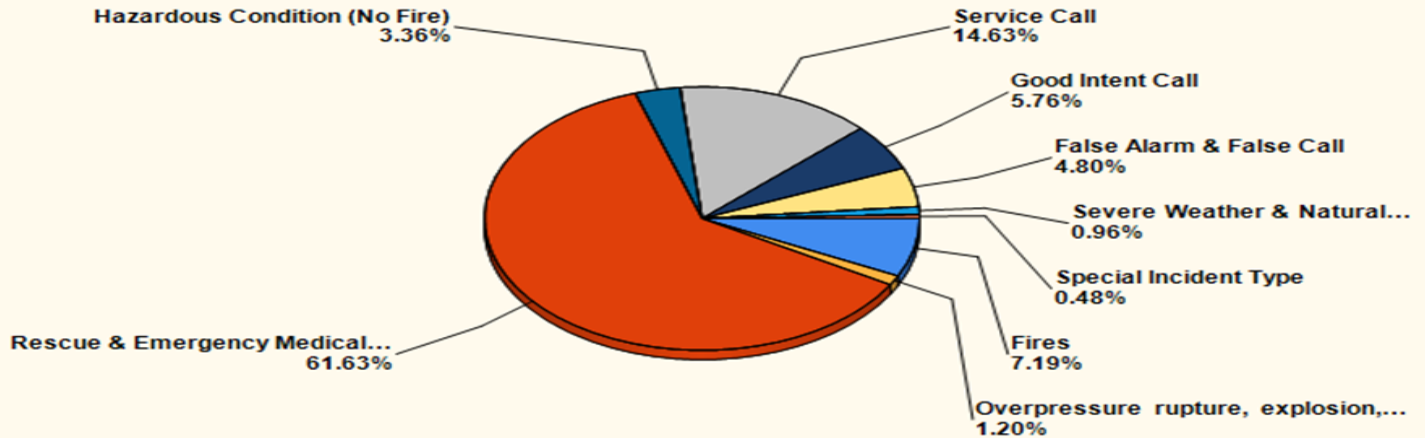
After several delays at the Federal level in testing and evaluation, the department received and put into service sixteen new Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). These new "air packs" meet the latest standards in respiratory protection for firefighters. They replace twelve 2002 standard SCBA and provided us enough units to fill every seat on each apparatus including the extra seats made available by the new engine. The SCBA were paid for by a grant from the NM Fire Fund and included 16 high pressure bottles, 30 improved high temperature masks and a Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) pack used to rescue firefighters who become trapped in a fire and are in danger of running out of air.

In addition a new deck gun was installed on our Spartan Metro X engine. This completed the outfitting of this unit and greatly increased its versatility in fighting large fires. Both the Spartan and Pierce engines are now comparably equipped with the only difference being the Spartan, being larger, carries the rescue equipment used in removing victims trapped in vehicles after an accident.

Michael Graham, our training captain conducted a short fire academy this summer and graduated four cadets. These cadets already had their Firefighter I certifications and the academy concentrated on bringing them up to speed on Mesilla FD standards and operating guidelines. Testing and interviews were conducted in September for another short academy and plans are in the works to conduct a full FF I academy this spring. We also have 3 firefighters in the EMT Basic and Advanced classes at DACC and 4 other firefighters preparing for their EMT Registry exams.

The Mesilla Firefighters Association recently raised \$1800 during a fundraising event held at El Patio called "FIRE JAM" which involved regional bands, door prizes donated by local business and direct donations. This past year the MFA purchased 2 laptop computers for the department and made donations to several firefighter families in need in NM and AZ. Please look for our firefighters out on the streets soon as they raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association's Fill the Boot campaign.

FIRE DEPARTMENT CALLS



Due to the increased emphasis on training with have improved in both number of personnel attending training and hours offered. During the previous twelve months 29 personnel completed 695.3 hours of training. Great job MFD! Today we continue to prepare for an ISO evaluation in the spring of 2015. We hope to lower our rating from our current level of 5. We are also greatly looking forward to the completion of the Public Safety Building improvement project this spring. The firefighters and deputies are very excited to be able to work and train in a modernized facility. There will be challenges in finding money to replace office furniture and equipment and plans are being made for fundraisers and other ventures to make this happen.

As the chief of the Mesilla Fire Department I continue to be extremely proud of our volunteer firefighters. We have faced significant challenges in the fire service and our volunteers continue to meet the challenges with professionalism, perseverance and courage. Please continue to support them in their efforts.

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Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives

Test Yours Every Month!

Fire Prevention Week • October 5–11, 2014



Smoke alarms

- Almost three of five (60%) of reported home fire deaths in 2007 to 2011 resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half.
- In fires considered large enough to activate the smoke alarm, hardwired alarms operated 93% of the time, while battery powered alarms operated only 79% of the time.
- When smoke alarms fail to operate, it is usually because batteries are missing, disconnected, or dead.
- An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires and a photoelectric smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires. For the best protection, or where extra time is needed, to awaken or assist others, both types of alarms, or combination ionization and photoelectric alarms are recommended.

Marshal's Updates

Hello, my name is Chris Mangusing and I am your new Marshal. I joined the Marshal's Department in April of this year. I bring almost 28 years of Federal Law Enforcement experience to the department. I am extremely happy and excited to join the community of Mesilla. My goals are to continue with the professionalism of the Marshal's Department and go even further with continuing education and training for our officers. I will seek additional funding for upgrading equipment and technology. I also want to welcome not only the folks from out of town but welcome back the residents of our surrounding areas, but first and foremost I want the residents of Mesilla to feel safe at all times of the day and night.

We have had numerous changes in the Mesilla Marshal's Department recently. The Marshal's Department was able to hire two additional deputies, Manuel Cortez and Jesse Lujan. Both deputies bring a wealth of experience and knowledge. Both of these officers have worked in small communities and have an understanding of what it's like to work and be a member of a wonderful community like Mesilla.

Thanks to the hard work of the Board of Trustees and Mayor Barraza we are in the process of hiring an additional deputy. With this new hire that will bring the total number of deputies to 7 including the Marshal.

Lastly, the Marshal's office has moved from the Public Safety Building on Calle De Parian to the Mesilla Community Center located at 2251 Calle De Santiago, Mesilla, NM. Our phone number remains the same, 575-526-4138. We welcome the public to come by and see our new digs. It is still unknown how long we will be at the Community Center but anticipate we will move back to the Public Safety Building sometime next year.

Please remember we are here for the residents of Mesilla and will continue to serve the community by providing not only public safety but peace of mind.

The Marshal's Department has seen an increase in stray dogs and cats in the area. We are notifying the owners of the animals if we recognize the animal and warning the owners that Mesilla has an ordinance concerning stray animals. **See Below**

6.05.080 Animals running at large.

A. Duty to Keep Animal on Owner's Premises or Leashed. Any person owning or having charge or control of any animal shall keep such animal on his or her premises. No animal shall be running at large or unleashed on any street, alley, sidewalk, vacant lot, public property (including public parks), or nonenclosed space on private property not that of the owner of the animal.

The Marshal's Department will begin to issue citations when these stray animals are encountered.

The Dona Ana Animal Control Department is also being asked by the Mesilla Marshal's Department to assist in in this endeavor by doing regular patrols though the area. If the animal is picked up and taken to the Shelter the owner will be notified and charged for the cost of spay or neuter, if needed, licensing, if no license is present, and kennel cost as applicable.

Lastly, the Marshal's department will have its second community outreach on November 18, 2014 at the Mesilla Community Center at 6:00 PM. Some of the topics of discussion will be car burglaries in the area, the need for all of us to keep our eyes open and many topics that you, the community, would like to talk about with the Marshal. Notifications are forthcoming.

Please remember we are here for the residents of Mesilla and will continue to serve the community by providing not only public safety but peace of mind.

Remember for non-emergency call or you need to speak to a deputy call dispatch at 575-526-0795 option #6. For an emergency please call 911!

Chris Mangusing, Marshal



TOWN OF MESILLA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

Board of Trustees

Nora L. Barraza

Mayor

Carlos Arzabal

Mayor Pro-tem

Sam Bernal

Trustee

Stephanie Johnson-Burick

Trustee

Linda Flores

Trustee

Planning, Zoning &

Historical

Appropriateness

Commission

Tamara McLeod

Russell Hernandez

Yolanda Lucero

Roman Prieto

Don Apodaca

AMIGOS NEEDED

The J. Paul Taylor Visitors Center is seeking volunteers to help greet tourists and to help in the visitors center.

Interested volunteers please contact

Irene E. Parra

(575) 524-3262 ext. 116

VETERANS PLAQUE

Mesilla residents who have family members who's names they would like added to the Veteran's plaque, please come by town hall to fill out the necessary paperwork and determine eligibility.

For more information please call (575) 524-3262

The New Mexico Lions Crane Reading Foundation (NMLCRF) was founded in 2004 and designated a 501c3 organization in 2005. The Foundation operates an integrated reading program (NMLCRP) that combines both the latest computer technology and other proven activities. It includes eight key components: 1) Adjustment of desk height, 2) Use of templates, 3) Vision examinations and prescription lenses and/or vision therapy, 4) Development of gross motor skills, 5) Reading practice using computer programs, 6) Writing composition, 7) Allergy management, and 8) Proper placement and remediation of new students. A successful Reading Laboratory is currently located at Camino Real Middle School (CRMS) in Las Cruces. The activities at the Reading Lab include eye screenings, template training, gross motor skill development and computer reading practice. For further information on the program or if you wish to help with our Reading Laboratory efforts, or help conduct eye screenings, or assist with fund-raising activities, please contact either Allen Crane (575-373-0561; areadingpro@aol.com), Cathy Waters (575-640-5020), Eldon Steelman (575-373-2912;

Mesilla Town Hall & J. Paul Taylor Visitor Center
2231 Avenida de Mesilla
PO Box 10
Mesilla, NM 88046

PLACE
STAMP
HERE



Town of Mesilla

P.O. Box 10

Mesilla, NM 88046

(575) 524-3262

www.mesillanm.gov

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